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SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT **Newsletter**

► GOVERNOR SIGNS TAX REFUND LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY METRO FIRE



Metro Fire is pleased to announce the enactment of Assembly Bill 1053, an urgency measure which gives Metro Fire the legal authority to refund taxes to residents who were billed in error for a special fire tax between 2005 and 2013. This assessment error - and eligibility for refunds - applies to 3,841 properties near the Sloughhouse/Rancho Murieta Special Fire Tax area, primarily affecting owners in the Anatolia community.

Upon discovering the error last year, which first occurred in the 2005/06 tax year, Metro Fire notified affected property owners and began processing refunds for tax years between 2009/10 and 2012/13. Metro Fire was prohibited by state law from accepting claims for refunds older than four years. In order to make affected property owners whole, Metro Fire sponsored AB 1053, which was authored by Assemblyman Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova). With the bill's passage, the District can now pay refunds for the additional tax years (2005/06-2008/09).

"With Governor Brown's signature, a barrier prohibiting Metro Fire from being able to return all of the money to those who paid the fire tax is removed," said Cooley. "Now that state law has been changed, justice can be served."

Metro Fire Chief Kurt Henke stated, "We are very thankful for Assemblyman Cooley's dedication to helping us accomplish our goal of correcting this unfair outcome and making homeowners whole for this error."

Read more [here](#).

► METRO FIRE OFFERS LIFE-SAVING CPR IN SIX LANGUAGES FREE OF CHARGE



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In February, three-year-old Mason was found at the bottom of his family's backyard pool. His father performed CPR until Metro Fire crews arrived and took over. In April, the Assistant Manager of a store in Rancho Cordova started CPR on an unresponsive shopper while paramedics were en route. Both of these patients were pulseless - clinically dead. Not only did they survive; they are expected to make near-full recoveries.

Why? Because CPR keeps oxygenated blood circulating through the body and can more than double a person's chance of survival.

In May, Metro Fire launched a new program called Sidewalk CPR. This FREE, hands-only CPR course is taught by Metro Fire firefighters and paramedics, and takes just five minutes to learn. The techniques taught are extremely effective and easy to remember.

At Sunrise Mall, roughly 500 people learned CPR in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Japanese, Russian and Ukrainian. Students ranged in age from two to 70 years of age. One of the first students was a bubbly nine-year-old girl named Delaney. At the age of six, Delaney went into cardiac arrest while at school. Her teacher performed CPR until Metro Fire crews arrived and took over. Miraculously, Delaney survived and wanted to learn CPR for herself. When asked why, her response was simple: "If my teacher hadn't done CPR, I probably wouldn't be alive."

Join us at one of our Sidewalk CPR events so YOU can be somebody's hero! View the schedule.

Watch Delaney's story [here](#).

Check out Mason's story [here](#).

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"Forged from a long line of tradition, we are **Metro Fire** - working together to serve our community with honor, integrity and selfless devotion to duty."

► PROPOSED FIRE ASSESSMENT PUT ON HOLD



Fire Chief Kurt Henke announced in April he would not ask Metro Fire's Board of Directors to proceed with the balloting process for a fire suppression benefit assessment. Funding raised by the property assessment would have been used to reopen up to five of the six fire engine companies closed during the recession and improve emergency response times in the district, which have been degrading every year.

"After conducting extensive outreach, including two public hearings on the assessment proposal, we believe the most prudent course of action is to not pursue this fire assessment at this time," said Chief Henke. "Although there is widespread recognition we cannot restore service levels without additional revenue and that our service demand keeps increasing, I will continue to consult with my Board members and key stakeholders to evaluate our options to address this serious public safety issue."

Metro Fire Board President Randy Orzalli added, "As we pursue how best to manage our staffing and equipment needs with limited resources, Metro Fire's

Board will continue to place the highest priority on protecting the public and ensuring the health and safety of our field personnel."

Read Metro Fire's press release [here](#).

► KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE AROUND POOLS AND HOT TUBS



Drowning is the #1 cause of death for infants and toddlers in California, and more than half of those deaths occur in backyard pools and hot tubs. Unfortunately, our region is not immune from these tragedies.

Now that summer is upon us, we urge you to follow these basic steps to keep everyone safe around the water this year:

- Learn to swim and teach children how to swim
- Always supervise children when in or around water
- Swim with a buddy, even if a lifeguard is present
- Learn CPR
- Avoid alcohol when swimming or supervising children

If you have a swimming pool at home, we urge you to take the following precautions:

- Install a fence with a self-latching gate around your pool
- Clear toys from the pool and deck after use so children are not tempted

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